

\* For Examiner's Reference \*

We Claim:

1. A catalytic converter for the after-treatment of exhaust gas of an internal combustion engine, comprising:

5 a housing  $\textcircled{2}$  having an internal space  $\textcircled{9}$  for receiving exhaust gas therethrough, wherein surfaces of walls of said housing  $\textcircled{2}$  facing said internal space  $\textcircled{9}$  are at least partially provided with catalytically active material in a flow path between inlet and outlet means  $\textcircled{10}, \textcircled{8}$  for exhaust gas, and

10 hollow domes  $\textcircled{7}$  disposed on oppositely disposed walls of said housing  $\textcircled{2}$ , wherein said hollow domes  $\textcircled{7}$  extend into said internal space  $\textcircled{9}$ , wherein free ends of said hollow domes are provided with said outlet means  $\textcircled{8}$ , and wherein the free ends of those hollow domes  $\textcircled{7}$  on one of said walls  $\textcircled{5}, \textcircled{6}$  extend beyond free ends of those hollow domes of the oppositely disposed wall  $\textcircled{6}, \textcircled{5}$ .

15 2. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of hollow domes  $\textcircled{7}$  are provided on each of said oppositely disposed wall  $\textcircled{5}, \textcircled{6}$  of said housing  $\textcircled{2}$ , and wherein the hollow domes  $\textcircled{7}$  on one of said walls  $\textcircled{5}, \textcircled{6}$  extend into spaces between the hollow domes of the oppositely disposed wall  $\textcircled{6}, \textcircled{5}$ .

20 3. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said housing  $\textcircled{2}$  is composed of two shell portions  $\textcircled{3}, \textcircled{4}$ , each of which is provided with one of said oppositely disposed walls  $\textcircled{5}, \textcircled{6}$ .

4. A catalytic converter according to claim 3, wherein said shell portions  $\textcircled{3}, \textcircled{4}$  are one-piece drawn parts of plate metal.

25 5. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said hollow domes  $\textcircled{7}$  have an essentially cylindrical configuration.

6. A catalytic converter according to claim 5, wherein said hollow domes 7 have a conical configuration that tapers towards said free ends thereof.

5 7. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said free ends of said hollow domes 7 extend nearly to the oppositely disposed wall 5,6 while forming a flow gap 13

8. A catalytic converter according to claim 7, wherein the flow gap 13 of outwardly disposed ones of said hollow domes 7 has a reduced cross-section.

10 9. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein outer surfaces of said hollow domes 7 are provided with a catalytically active coating.

10. A catalytic converter according to claim 3, wherein said shell portions 3, 4 rest against one another via a peripheral flange collar 15.

15 11. A catalytic converter according to claim 10, wherein said shell portions 3,4 are connected by means of an edge bead 17 in the vicinity of said flange collar 15.

20 12. A catalytic converter according to claim 10, wherein one of said shell portions 4 has a pot-shaped configuration and is provided with said flange collar 15, wherein the other of said shell portions 3 is provided with an abutment edge 16 that is guided beyond a region of one of said oppositely disposed walls 5 that is provided with said hollow domes 7 and wherein said abutment edge 16 has the dimensions of said flange collar 15

25 13. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, wherein said outlet means 8 provided on said free ends of said hollow domes 7 form an outlet for said catalytic converter.

14. A catalytic converter according to claim 1, which is embodied  
for use in a muffler 20 and forms an inlet of said muffler.

5        15. A catalytic converter according to claim 14, wherein when said  
catalytic converter is installed in said muffler 20, an inlet means 10 of said  
housing 2 in the form of an inlet window is disposed at the same level as an  
inlet opening 21 of said muffler 20.

10      16. A catalytic converter according to claim 14, wherein said  
housing 2 is provided with aligned holes 27 for receiving fixing or mounting  
elements that extend through said housing 2.